



PSSA NEWS & VIEWS

BULLETIN OF THE
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



POWER by Nat Cowan, APSSA, ARPS, APSA

There was a time when they called it "atmosphere". Nowadays it's known as "pollution"!

(From the collection in the Bensusan Museum of Photography)

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PSSA NEWS AND VIEWS

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Society of Southern Africa

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TRANSPARENCY CORNER

EXECUTIVE SUITE

Editor: Ivor S. Shepherd

Production: Les Luckhoff

FRONT COVER:

POWER - Nat Cowan APSSA, ARPS, APSA

There was a time when they called it "atmosphere". Nowadays it's known as "pollution". (From the collection in the Bensusan Museum of Photography).

FOCAL PLANE:

Don Briscoe APS(SA) has had to give up the Editorial job on PSSA News & Views owing to his business commitments. This is indeed a loss which we can ill afford, as Don has done a very good job in launching and fostering the new look magazine. Starting off as "newsletter" status - and slowly gaining in stature until it reached it's present format, PSSA News & Views has still a fair way to go, but a great deal of the hard work has been done by Don, and the future has been made a little smoother, due to his efforts. I'm sure I echo the sentiments of all the members when I say, most sincerely, "Thank you Don Briscoe, your efforts are greatly appreciated and may we take this opportunity of wishing you every success in your new venture".

Of course Don's leaving is doubly unhappy as far as I'm concerned as Les Luckhoff conned me into taking over the job. The terms of employment are very sketchy, but the financial arrangements were very firmly fixed. I produce the "guff" each month and for this I'm to receive one new typewriter ribbon per annum. (Perhaps) Serves me right for even speaking to the Luckhoff the last time I was in Springs.

As for Editorial policy, there is to be no "muzzling of the press" by the Executive so those of you out there who think you may have some very good ideas on how PSSA could be improved, please feel free to write and give me the "dope". (Please keep the articles free of invective, and under 10,000 words (of one letter)). Seriously though, this mightn't be a bad idea, provided the ideas are constructive suggestions that the President be lynched, or the Executive Chairman be sent to the salt mines have been received in large quantity already. As to what we can do with the Director of the Regional Representatives this doesn't bear repeating.

The 1974 Congress will be held at the Holiday Inn in Port Elizabeth from the 8th to 13th October. The P.E. host clubs are hard at work already, and that part of the business we can safely leave in their capable hands. However, the part where the member comes to light is perhaps even more important. Firstly it is natural that

the members support and attendance will have a big bearing on whether Congress '74 is a success or otherwise. Secondly, Congress is the time and place where the elections take place. And members should give this serious thought. It is a great shame when Directors have to be appointed as there were insufficient nominations to fill the panel. It should be terribly difficult to become a Director, not terribly difficult to avoid becoming one. Let's make the 1974 Congress memorable for its great success and also for the closely contested elections.

Reading through most of the club "rags" received this month the most popular theme seems to be "membership", and not just "new membership" but "old membership".

It would appear that once a member reaches to "top of the tree" clubwise, then that member, as one magazine put it, "is content to sit on his laurels". (Hope they're the non-prickly type). However the member may wish to rest on his laurels, it is an unhappy fact that this is what happens. Once one gets that last Gold or Mark I and receives the Premier Honour in the club, that's it. All that remains in most cases is to become a very critical judge, an inactive photographer or, most valuable of all, a committee member. This appears to be the trend countrywide. The member usually gets his/her AIAP and that's it. (Another Inactive Amateur Photographer). This probably accounts for the large floating population we have in the Camera Clubs' around the Republic. 20% old stalwarts and 80% here today and gone tomorrow. The committees need to take a long hard look at things and attempt to find out why this trend continues. If the 20% - 80% proportion could be reversed then a much stronger PSSA would result I'm sure, plus the main consideration, that the clubs themselves would benefit accordingly. Anyone got any theories?

Finally, for those who wish to contribute any articles to PSSA News & Views, please send them to: The Editor, PSSA News & Views, 21 Jacana Road, Albemarle, Germiston, 1401. Photographs would be acceptable with the articles. Black and white at present I'm afraid. (If anyone wants to come along in person, please

feel free to do so, and if you can't ring the front door bell because your hands are full of cans of cold Lion Lager, never fear, I'll hear you coming up the drive). There is also a telephone which operates from 7 a.m. - 7.30 a.m. and from 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. (After that time the board closes) 34-6359.

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LOWVELD TEACH-IN

On the 23rd August, 1974 there will be the first "teach-in" or seminar of a photographic nature to be held in the Republic.

Mrs. Anne Gentis, who was Loretta Young's personal photographer, and, more to the point, who has lectured in photography at an American University as well as running seminars in the States, will be the "brains" behind the "scene".

Mrs. Gentis, who runs a studio in Nelspruit, will be backed by the Nelspruit and White River Photographic Societies in this seminar. The whole thing will be put together at the Drum Rock Hotel near Nelspruit.

Provisionally, the programme will see participants arriving at Nelspruit on Friday, having Cine & Slide lectures on Saturday morning, a practical session on Saturday afternoon, comprising outdoor photography, portraiture, how to pose a model, etc., followed on Saturday evening by a Cocktail Party, which in turn will be followed by a slide appraisal session. (Each participant is to bring along two slides for appraisal, one portrait, one open).

Sunday morning will be taken up with more lectures on darkroom techniques, cine and photography and travel. There will be three lectures at the teach-in, which should certainly give everyone a lot of fun, ideas and knowledge.

I presume everyone comes home on Sunday afternoon or evening and the whole business cost R29.00c. (Depending on alcoholic intake, of course). Booking through Photography and Travel.

* * * * *

PLEASE

We have a number of thrifty types in our midst, who are causing untold wear and tear on the nerves of Vicki Stewart, (bet you don't know who that is), the PSSA Secretary, and the Secretary of P & T. These three people are being slowly ground down by those of you who have discovered that it is possible to beat inflation at it's scource by writing out one cheque for the following:

- 1) The Insurance payments to Stewart Wrightson,
- 2) The Photography and Travel subscription,
- 3) The P.S.S.A. subscription and levy.

Which means Vicki, the PSSA Sec. and the P & T Sec. have to get together and sort this lot out. Which is costing them TIME AND MONEY. So in actual fact someone is losing a little more than that 15 cents you are saving; namely patience and good manners. So PLEASE PLEASE make out a separate cheque in the future, and send them to PSSA who will pass them on for you.

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PHOTO FLASHES

Reading through the club magazines I noticed that "Focus" seems to be the most popular name around. The Welkom and Edenvale Camera Clubs as well as the Queensborough Cine Club all have "Focus" as the official organ. Greytown and the Pretoria Photographic Society have opted for "Flash".

Just to confuse the issue, the Greytown magazine "Flash" had an article on "Focus" therein. Entitled, "The Greeks had a Word for It" it goes thus: "In ancient Roman(?) times a fireplace was called a "focus". It was always set in the middle of the room and the inmates sat around it and concentrated their attention on the centre of the circle providing there weren't any pretty girls about.

When it was discovered that the sun's rays could be concentrated through a glass to make a fire, this point was

called the "focus" or "fireplace". A better story would have been "and the inmates sat around it with their attention focused on the centre of the circle that the sun's rays could be focused through glass...." etc." Perhaps the name "Focus" could be changed for "The Fireplace" or "The Hearthstone".

GREYTOWN -

The Wildlife Salon run by the Wildlife Society had 10 acceptances from the Greytown Club, not bad at all. Greytown must also have the lowest charge for tea at the meetings, at 5c per cup. And there was certainly some very cheap equipment on sale, meaning cheap moneywise, not cheap qualitywise. (So if you are on your way to the Durban July, go via Greytown, you'll save money on tea and equipment and I'm sure you'll get a warm welcome from the members).

QUEENSBOROUGH -

Eddie Thomas gave an interesting lecture on how to turn your 8mm projector into a stereo piece. For those interested I'm sure Eddie would oblige with a copy. 21 Ruwenzori, St. Andrew's Street, Durban, 'phone 31-3273. Whysall's are running a Cine '74 competition with about R400 worth of equipment as prizes. Forms from Eddie Thomas or Whysalls in Durban.

PORT ELIZABETH -

PSSA News & Views is very widely distributed it would seem as I've just had a very irate Arab on the telephone going on no end about it not being his fault that Congress is in P.E. (Just goes to show Roy, be careful about what you write in your Presidential column.) However, Arab or no Arab, irate or not, the P.E. clubs are hard at work on Congress '74. We'll no doubt get an article at a later date on the whole scene. (Don't leave it until October though, next month might be a good idea).

The P.E. Cine Club had a good public show but were disappointed in the lack of new members. (Look after the "old members").

P.E. Camera Club are having the same problems regarding late entries as the SABS club in Pretoria. This seems to be a universal problem, there is always some-

one who gets there just before "kick-off" with three slides that must go in the tray. No one seems to have come up with the solution yet, I know our club hasn't, and yet the most you lose is a little time and probably more patience. Maybe a "grin and bear it" solution would be best.

The PSSA Regional Representatives Director is a member of PE Camera Club, and seemed to be in the awards last month. I'm hoping to get Barrie to give me an article on what's going with the regional reps.

PRETORIA -

On the 18th April, 1974 AFO celebrated their 21st birthday. AFO stands for Afrikaanse Fotografiese Organisasie and was founded by Messrs. J.S. Enslin, A. P. Snyman, Andries de Witt a Botha and one other. (18th April, 1953). In 1954 the first newsletter appeared, forerunner of "Korrel", the present magazine. A brief history is given in the magazine, and should anyone be interested, I'm sure Frans Groenewald, their hard working secretary, would send a copy to you. Frans is at Box 1494, Pretoria. May you have at least another successful 21 years AFO.

The Pretoria Cinematography Club are celebrating their 35th birthday this year. The club was founded in 1937 and a little history is related in "Pixit", the club magazine.

I wonder which club can lay claim to being the oldest?

EAST LONDON -

The President of the East London Photographic Society lists the new Honours section requirements in "Perspective". The needs are tough, which is a good thing as it will keep the higher grade workers on the ball. "Sonny" Birch comments, "I do not like the "star" system of grading as this star rating does not indicate anything and this method should remain with the hotel trade". Perhaps, but there are some who say it doesn't mean anything there either. However, it is a nice controversial remark and it is positive. "Sonny" ends up, "I now lay my head upon the block for slaughter"

I wouldn't worry too much "Sonny", a little controversy will keep your club alive, even if it may not do the same for you.

FLORIDA -

The Florida Camera Club achieved it's 10 year term in 1974. In "Wide Angle" the club scribe does a little bragging about the fact that Florida Camera Club had the only South African acceptances in the Hong Kong Salon. This is quite an achievement, but I'm surprised that there were no other S.A. acceptances as some of the "big guns" are regular entrants. So the 1st August will see a double party perhaps, a birthday party and a salon success party. I'm looking for pictures of this one for sure.

EDENVALE -

The Interclub between Germiston and Edenvale was won and lost by ONE point. This must surely be a record. (And must have been subject to a few recounts). Edenvale just got in under the wire, but Germiston walked off with the "Best Slide" award. I don't think that evens up the honours, but it no doubt softens the blow. Edenvale have a monochrome group going now, and for those interested contact Graeme England at 4 Lebombo, van Riebeeck Avenue, Eastleigh Ridge.

NELSPRUIT -

You'll notice elsewhere that Nelspruit are concerned with the first Photographic "teach-in" in the Republic. With a paid up membership of 59 Nelspruit are certainly not a "small" club. The fact that there is a well known National Park nearby must make the people of Nelspruit very "camera conscious".

The club editor states, "It's the man behind the machine that counts" and "Who said it's a good picture just because it's taken with a good camera?" This is quite a good theme, provided it is kept in perspective. If the photographer knows how to use the camera I'd say he'd take a better picture with a better camera, than with a "bum" camera. A friend of mine who takes professional pictures has a relatively inexpensive camera but takes fantastic pictures. (The fact that he has about R5,000 worth of accessories does help).

DURBAN -

The Durban National Salon has now developed into the Durban International Salon. (Reminds me of the song, "Where have all the Nationals gone?"). However the committee must have thought this one over carefully before deciding to change. They have certainly got a little more work, especially with the posting of slides. Best of luck with the 1974 effort. The Editor of "Pan" gets a little stropky with the males in the April issue. (I get the impression the Editor is an Editress). An unfortunate named "George" didn't comply with the request for an article so wound up with a verse on the page earmarked for his article, in which the "mickey" is well and truly taken out. Bad luck, George, I hear you are now the most prolific contributor. (George is also doing the housework, shopping, dishwashing and doesn't speak unless ordered). In conclusion, don't forget to check the Salon list re entry forms for the Durban International.

RHODESIA -

The Executive of the Mashonoland Photographic Society, or rather, their Executive writer has this to say, under the heading, "Executive Ramblings by I.Spy": "... and that I. Spy would have to judge all those grotesque pictures some members delight in showing". (This must have been in retaliation to the "100 expressions for Judges" which I did for the Jabula Newsletter, "Telephoto" and which Don picked up for the March issue) I guess being on the Executive or being an Executive Rambler gives one "poetic licence". I can imagine the reaction on the Reef if I said at a judging session, "blah, blah, blah, this rather grotesque shot, blah, blah, blah". Wow. But what I do like about the "Rhodesian Picturemaker" is the very good cover which is produced by courtesy of two of the club members. The model is really "yummy". (I only hope the two guys who are producing the cover aren't producing any "grotesque" pictures).

KROONSTAD -

In "Lens" it was quite interesting to note that the committee of the Kroonstad Photographic Society have placed a

"Suggestion Box" in a prominent position at Club meetings. The Editor says he saw a recent club report where the only suggestion was "Shoot the Judges", and goes on to say that he hopes Kroonstad have more constructive criticism to offer than that. I agree, I'm the first to take the "mickey" out of the judges, but without the judges, you just would not shape. Who would criticise and try to teach? And let's face it, for every "crazy" idea the judges put forward, there must be 50 "excellent" bits of advice. And as one very good judge I know says "I'd much rather be home in my darkroom, doing my thing, with a large tumbler of "scotch" available, and no rude "idiot" there to argue because I didn't give him a "Gold"". I'm sorry I missed the party in Kroonstad, the description of "green mealies, watermelon and other "goodies" sent me staggering off to the "larder" to see what I could find. Mrs. France Brothers had another 6 notches added to her acceptance tally when she got the Natal Wildlife and Cape of Good Hope Salon results. By the way, have you still got that "crowned plover" down there. The one you hammered the Welkom Salon with in 1972.

JOHANNESBURG -

Frank Sanbourn, President of Camera Club of Johannesburg last year awarded his "Presidents Award" to Syd Karnowsky for his contribution to Camera Club of Johannesburg and to Photography generally. Syd was for many years Editor of "Viewfinder" the CCJ magazine, and really turned out a slick, professional mag. It was pretty obvious that Syd is going to put this award right where everyone can see it, and quite rightly so. Monty Freeman, FPSSA is the Chairman of the Slide Section this year and he and the committee are certainly trying some new ideas. A panel of 5 slides, judged by three judges on the salon system, is entered for a "Star Trophy", i.e. The panels are entered in whatever section the author is in. An overall winner is also culled on imagination, versatility and photographic quality. Jack Petzer, Mike Feldman and I judged the first one and very entertaining it turned out to be. Let's hope this idea catches on. (I know Johannesburg Photographic Society had something similar a while back but

don't know whether it's still going).

Whilst on the subject of Jack Petzer, I hear Jack is still recovering from his recent operation. Let's hope you have a speedy recovery Jack, and that you are soon on the judging circuit again.

Len Miller FPSSA became the fifth Honorary Life Member of the Jabula Camera Club last month. Len, who is well-known on the Salon circuit, both here and overseas, has spent 8 years on the Jabula committee, holding office as Chairman for one year, and being the "Recorder" for another seven. Len was the first to receive the Life Membership badge. This year is the first year since joining that Len hasn't been on the committee. And he still finds time to "shoot".

In "Apertures and Amateurs" the magazine of Eagle Camera Club, there is some good advice to those who want to "shoot people". Entitled "10 Commandments for People Photography" there are such literary gems as "Practise your Draw", "Develop the Dancers Technique" and "Keep your Camera Moving". But the one I rated tops was "Walk Naked through the World". (I think they left out the bit, "as long as you don't do it in South Africa"). After the spate of streaking I'd imagine you wouldn't shape just "walking" naked through Johannesburg, let alone the world. And as a final bit of advice, "Stand your Ground", and my reply, "And you'll probably wind up planted in it".

HELDERBERG -

Thanks go to the Cape Town Photographic Society for bringing out the Cape of Good Hope Salon to the Helderberg Photographic Society. Apparently there was a little hilarity at the showing as the sync. was slightly out in one part. But although the operators were embarrassed the audience felt the effect was one of improving the amusement content of the show. The fact that 4 acceptances and 2 hon. mentions came from Helderberg authors no doubt helped.

ESTCOURT -

It's nice to hear praise about PSSA services and in "Shoot", the Estcourt and Masonite Camera Club mag. there is just

praise for both the Cine Show and the Slide Lecture from the PSSA libraries. The result is that there is going to be another call on these services from Estcourt. The bad news is that the Chairman has said that, "he wants to retire from the hot seat in August". The search is on for a replacement. I would have thought everyone in the club would have wanted the honour of being Chairman. Let's face it, the hardest job is being Secretary/Treasurer, the Chairman's job is a "breeze". (I know, I've been Sec/Treasurer and I'm now Chairman). Get in down there at Estcourt, the Chairman gets the best seats at the meetings, talks longest, and can sign cheques, what more do you want? Congrats. to Mrs. Sparks on the Honorary Membership award.

BULAWAYO -

The Camera Club of Bulawayo is considering a novel way of attracting attention. The idea is that a member or members "streak" along Main Street waving a banner advertising the BCC. You'll lose out on this one as everyone will be watching other things than the banner, that's for sure.

The committee is considering ways and means to improve the photographic standard and affiliation to a larger club outside Rhodesia is being considered. You know, you can always send work down to PSSA for a taped appraisal, very many of the smaller clubs here do so. Just drop a line to Les Luckhoff, 135 Howard Avenue, Benoni for full details of the service.

CAPE TOWN -

There is a little Salon history on the Cape of Good Hope Salon in this month's CTPS magazine. The first salon appeared in 1933 and has been held bi-annually since then, with the exception of a break during the war years. The 1974 Salon pulled in a record 2,000 + slide entries plus a very good print response. The comment is made that a little more support from other workers would be appreciated. No doubt, as an International is certainly a big job.

It's wild and wooly in Cape Town, as Tita Wilson, on leaving her flat for the

April Council meeting was bitten by a scorpion, and thus had to miss the meeting. (I'll bet she missed the meeting because she caught the scorpion and was busy photographing it). However, there were no ill-effects so all ended well. Although I'll bet it was painful. We had a guy up here who nearly lost an arm because of his tangling with, you'll never believe this, a newly hatched antlionfly. True.

VANDEBILPARK -

I notice that Rudy Erasmus and his merry men have pinched my nom-de-plume, "Shutterbug". It's OK Rudy, just send a cheque to the Jabula Camera Club and we'll not prosecute. I judged their last trophy night about two months ago, so am rather disturbed about the Editorial content this month. "Our masterpiece is TORN APART by the judges, who RAMBLE ON about poor print quality, (thank God I only judged the slides), lack of sharpness, incorrect placing in the thirds of the main centre of interests, etc...." I seem to have heard all this before chaps. But I did notice that this was written before I judged. (Who was there the month before that?).

VEREENIGING -

The A.G.M. was a poorly attended effort (you should have pushed the subs up smartly) and the same old faces have been elected. (Better the devil you know). However, VPS are doing very well indeed as the latest public showing indicated. The Editor is in rather a dismal mood though, in that the Cine Section have amalgamated with the Still Section and it is thought this may do the club more harm than good. Let's hope the fears are unfounded and VPS go from strength to strength. (You could wind up with the Cine guys taking ultra sharp "still" cine and the still guys taking "blurred" action pics).

WELKOM -

The Welkom Photographic Society have a good idea in their scrambles, but, as with other clubs, the support forthcoming doesn't do the event justice. I've quite a few friends in the Welkom Club and I'll bet I can nominate those who attend the scrambles. I see Trevor Nel

is still in the Chair, with Ben Mulder as Cine Vice Section. (That must be the result of our last photographic outing immediately after the Welkom Salon, when four of us decided we could better anything we had seen the night before). I still haven't heard how Ben's Novaflex works. However, the Welkom National must be coming around again shortly and this is the National we all have a soft spot for up here. Along with the others of course. But we don't miss the Nationals if we can help it, so keep an eye open for Welkom 1974.

The "Read For Pleasure" competition being organised by the Society sounds like a lot of fun. Unfortunately it's a local and not countrywide. However, let's hear some more about it Trevor.

***** DEFINITION OF A PICTURE

by Eugene Kibbe APSA (with Acknowledgement to PSA Journal):

This is just a short extract from an article in the PSA Journal, and should be of interest to some of the Editors of Club magazines who have been asking the question, "What is a Picture"?

"Certain photographs are pictures in the sense that they are something more than a record or reproduction of the object photographed. They either characterize, enhance or distil the essence of the thing pictured..."

"The photograph is not the object photographed but a finite, dimensional symbol of that object. When this is properly understood and realised the construction of the image by the photographic process becomes as important, often times more important, than the selection of the subject matter. The photographer as an artist is using subject matter as a vehicle - to convey an idea, or make a statement".

"One has to get involved in the art, the craft, the technique of photography to produce pictures of value".

"There must be conscious and skillful application of the photographic process

to produce pictures having esthetic sensibility. Snapshooters produce thousands of images on paper or transparent film over, perhaps, a period of years without producing a single picture of consequence".

"The picture should be Photographic, Sensuous, Specific, Infinite, an experience, an Act of Integrity. The formula as stated is very abstract; it says nothing specifically about subject matter or composition and only refers to the application of technique".

"The picture should be photographic. A flute cannot, should not sound like an aboe. The two instruments, however similar, have their own particular qualities. Either flute music or oboe music can be transcendently beautiful. Likewise a photograph is not an etching. A photograph properly, painstakingly and lovingly executed can be a thing of rare beauty and power. No photographer who has ever lived has come close to exhausting the technique of photography".

"The picture should be sensuous. It should appeal in as many ways as possible and as strongly so to whatever senses it can move. It will be primarily visual, but the graphic arts can be strongly tactile. Photographic language can even be evocative of taste and odour and perhaps of sound. However, much it is visual imagery, it should be felt as a delineation of depth, of size, of shape, of proportion, of strength, of hardness, of surging power or gossamer fragility".

"The picture should be specific. Because if it is not, it will not hold or attract attention. It should tell a single story. That story, however simple or complex, should have cohesion. The parts must fortify the whole and the whole must relate to the parts. If abstract or extrinsic to subject matter it can still cohere to homogeneous forms. The photograph may be very strong, perhaps extravagant in taking up and exploiting a large amount of esthetic material. However, one must be ruthless in excluding or minimising everything or anything that does not confirm the statement".

"A picture is enhanced by the quality of infinity. Some photographs have clarity and impact but leave room for a play of imagination. One of the pleasures of experiencing art is what it can do for self discovery".

"The picture should be an experience. It is best that the photograph can relate to the purview of the audience to which it is extended. It does not have to be topical, but if it is to elicit response it should not go beyond understanding. To be new, to be different, to be unorthodox is not, necessarily, to be better. Certainly expand perception, but be intelligible".

"And finally the picture should be an act of integrity. However or whatever photographed - was it worthwhile? Does it say something in which you believe? To dilute a statement because of expediency is to negate oneself. If the photograph you create is made with understanding, truth and love, exercised to the limit of your capacity it will be as strong and pure a communication as you are capable of making and it cannot be any less of a success than that to which you are due. Are the maker and the audience better for it's creation?"

"To take a photograph of a beautiful person or landscape is one thing. To use a person or landscape to make a picture possessing beauty is something else. It is to create a unique object that has never existed before, an object that, in it's own way, transcends the thing photographed. It's esthetic value rests within itself. This then can be a work of art". --Courtesy PSA Journal.

Well there you have it, all those who have asked, "What is a picture?".

* * * * *

PSSA LEVY

The following two letters are published without Editorial comment. We think this is unnecessary and, at this stage, prejudicial.

From: Camera Club of Johannesburg.
To: The Executive Chairman; PSSA
Dated: 16th May, 1974.

Dear Sirs,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 18th April, 1974, the contents of which are noted with surprise.

Prior to receiving your letter we were completely unaware of the decision taken at the Annual General Meeting held at the Wilderness last year. In this connection we wish to comment that having regard to the importance and the financial implications of the decision it is surprising that affiliated Clubs and members were not afforded the opportunity of being circularised prior notice of this resolution we would certainly have made arrangements for our feelings in the matter to be made known through a representative at the Annual General Meeting.

We are well aware of the financial difficulties which P.S.S.A. is experiencing at the present time, but in the light of the nebulous benefits which are offered to affiliated Clubs and individual members at the present time, we are unfortunately unable to recommend to our members that the suggested levy of R1.00 per member of our Club be enforced. We would have to satisfy our own members that they would in fact receive a material benefit which quite frankly we are unable to do at this stage in all honesty.

In a Club having a large membership such as ours we are unfortunately not in a position financially to bear the increased levy from our Club funds for obvious reasons. In view of the foregoing, the Executive Committee of our Club have reluctantly resolved that we cannot agree to the proposed increased affiliation fee. We feel strongly that P.S.S.A. must put its own house in order first and then submit to affiliated Clubs and members a definite policy and details of material benefits which PSSA is able to offer and once this is done we will then be in a position to canvas our own members and to justify to them a compulsory levy, but not otherwise.

As there are over 130 Clubs which are affiliated to P.S.A. we feel that if the Annual affiliation fee was increased to a reasonable amount payable annually

by each Club this should bring in sufficient revenue to enable P.S.S.A. to meet its financial commitment and if not sufficient surely P.S.S.A. can devise some other method of supplementing its funds. If for example 130 Clubs were each to contribute an annual affiliation fee of R20.00 each, this would provide an income of R2600.00 per annum to P.S.S.A. Advertising revenue could be canvassed and obtained for P.S.S.A. News and Views and this should in itself cover the cost of producing the magazine. As mentioned it is with reluctance that we have to take this decision, but we hope that you will appreciate our dilemma.

Yours faithfully,
Harold Nackan. ARPS
for CAMERA CLUB OF JOHANNESBURG

From: Carltonville Camera Club
To: The Executive Chairman, P.S.S.A.
Dated: 10th May, 1974.

Dear Sir,

We had a committee meeting on Tuesday night and it was decided to meet your request concerning the levy of R1.00 per member. Perhaps unfortunately for both of us we have only 16 members. I enclose our cheque for R16.00. I hope our small contribution will help, as our funds are very low.

Will you please accept this cheque as our levy for the year commencing in July, 1974.

Yours sincerely,
R. Hartley.
Honorary Treasurer.

* * * * *

HONOURS + AWARDS

The Executive Committee have received the following information from Honours and Awards:

- 1) Applications for Honours and Awards have always been acknowledged.
- 2) Every endeavour will be made by the committee to have applications judged and the applicants advised of the results within one month of the closing date.

- 3) Credit system for Entries: A-E: An unsuccessful applicant will be advised of the slides, prints or films that have been accepted by the judges. These acceptances will be credited to the applicant, provided that they are re-submitted in a panel for a total of not more than three subsequent applications covering a period of not longer than 18 (eighteen) months from date of original application.

Parts 2) and 3) will take effect immediately and will therefore apply to the judging session for which applications close on the 30th June, 1974.

* * * * *

PSSA INS. SCHEME

You have all heard of the Insurance Scheme organised by P.S.S.A. through Stewart Wrightson. Have you taken advantage of it yet? If not, contact Vicki Stewart, at 834-1211 or write to P.O. Box 2007, Johannesburg for full particulars.

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PSSA-ARGUS SHOW

The Argus and P.S.S.A. are again going to produce the popular "Star" show for 1974. At present Kip van Zyl of the Argus group is negotiating with the P.S.S.A. for organisational facilities, entry control etc. Kip van Zyl is the man who actually had the idea for the first show, and with the help of Len Abelheim, FPS(SA) who was then Chairman of the Colour Slide division of P.S.S.A. a tremendously successful show was produced. So successful that it has become an established event on the calendar. Something like 15,000 slides arrive from all over the country and Kip was telling me that there have been virtually no lost entries. This must be a fantastic achievement on the part of those who sort the slides, catalogue them and, after the show, send them back to the entrants. There is also the judging to be done, and for those who have been involved with a Salon, (where 2,000 slides is a record entry), you'll appreciate the difficulties involved with

the judging sessions. However, despite all the problems, the show goes on in time, and is seen in the Argus centres around the country by something like 10,000 people. This year Les Luckhoff is the man who is involved from the P.S.S.A. side, with Kip van Zyl, and apparently Len Abelheim is still helping in a consulting capacity. Let's wish them every success for 1974's show, and let's also give them the support they deserve. The proceeds go to charity, plus a donation to P.S.S.A. for their help and assistance. For those who have seen the past shows, where some 600 - 700 slides are put into series form, with music and commentary, and shown to the public, I don't have to say, "Don't miss the show". For those of you who haven't seen the show before, "Do yourself a favour".

* * * * *

'VIEWS'

A few months ago I had the pleasure of judging at the Springs Camera Club. It happened to be the A.G.M. as well, so I was present when Les Luckhoff received Honorary Life Membership, and then saw Les confer the same honour on Lex Liston APS(SA), who had been Chairman out there for a long time. There are only 3 Honorary Life Members in the Club, so it isn't something they throw around. However, the judging was the part I was going to mention. Springs have a system whereby the judges are asked to judge the sections to certain rules, i.e. Beginners need only have Focus and Exposure correct to get a Gold, the next section needs some Composition as well, and so it goes. I found this rather interesting, in that some of the pictures, being perfectly focused and exposed had to get a Gold and yet (I felt), in some cases the author just hadn't connected at all. Now I see in "Reflex", the Johannesburg Photographic Society's magazine, (which seems to have acquired a new lease of life under Harry Parker's wing), an article on Beginners' Judging. The article starts out nice and controversial, (Harry being a pro. journalist) that, "Some members argue that focus and exposure are all that should be required from a beginner, to which others reply that using a camera with through the

lens focusing and metering is not a real test of skill". "Something more is required to justify a Mark I (Gold). Something that makes a picture, that has a semblance of composition, a smidgin of impact".

"It should not be sufficient to point your camera in the general direction of some scene and take a picture, that is merely correctly exposed and focused".

"There should at least be a subject, a focal point of interest, and it should be well and properly lit and positioned. Not in shadow, not in the centre, not amputated, not tight in the frame. With room for the subject to move in the direction it is facing".

"Neither should there be large areas of uninteresting foreground or sky, nor a subject too small in the frame".

"Again, there should not be so much confusing detail in the picture that the eye does not know where to settle, nor should there be eye-catching light patches which distract the attention from the main subject".

"A landscape should have a vestige of lead in (by which is meant a river, road, wall, etc., leading the eye into the picture), and there should be some light modelling and balance".

"Time of day is important to give the right lighting, which is usually in early morning or late afternoon. Flat lighting, or harsh, bright noonday lighting is bad".

"Lastly, the slide should be properly mounted and clean".

"So now, without even trying, we have a dozen points which can scarcely be ignored when judging for advancement, even in Beginners (One Star)."

"I think it must be admitted then that quite a bit more than focus and exposure is required, otherwise a beginner is going to learn nothing and will have quite a shock coming if he/she reaches the next higher section without having such basics installed in him/her."

Well, that's quite a constructive sort of theme that the author has developed, but I'm sure there must be at least a dozen people out there who don't agree. But it's quite interesting to see that the trend in one club is to "protect" the new member, whilst in another it is to "protect but teach", if I may put it that way. I think the answer is somewhere between the two schools of thought certainly after seeing the Agfa taped series, "How to Improve Your Pictures", in which one saw the prize winning pictures from a world wide competition, and centres of interest slap bang in the centre of the format, light traps in the background, competing objects, etc, etc, were the rule rather than the exception. The "lead-in from the right" "the figure in red", "advancing colours in the foreground", "the line of thirds and fifths", all seem to be getting to be less important than before, although they are still there as basics. Certainly change for change's sake should be avoided. But conversely, "just because it was good enough for Granddad" doesn't mean Junior can't improve on the system.

However, it's refreshing to note that the Editors all round the country are all on the same wavelength when it comes to developing the theme regarding the judging of beginners or new members. Perhaps the time has come when the beginners or new members are more important to the club than the "old Bulls or Stags". Certainly anyone who judges a beginner's slide the way it was done two or three years ago won't get a second invitation to an advancement judging session.

* * * * *

PSSA LEVY

Extract from the Nelspruit Film Club monthly magazine:

P.S.S.A. is in financial difficulty and at the last A.G.M. decided that the only way to survive was to levy each member of each affiliated club R1.00 p.a. This was fully discussed by your committee, and was unanimously accepted, as P.S.S.A must be kept going for various obvious reasons.

* * * * *

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Having recently been involved in the running of an International Salon of Photography, I cannot but be amazed at the enthusiasm displayed by the few stalwarts who always seem to do all the hard work involved in administering this grand hobby of ours, Photography. Not only must all club activities continue to function normally, but new ideas be tested and put into practice. I never fail to admire those who devote so much time and energy to club activities, for their only reward is satisfaction and pleasure.

Club activities continue to thrive around the country and it is to be hoped that as many clubs and societies as possible will be represented at Congress '74 to be held in Port Elizabeth this year.

By now your Club will have received a letter from the Executive regarding our finances. I am really pleased to tell you that within six months P.S.S.A. will again be on a sound financial footing. Already a new enthusiasm has been awakened and many members are availing themselves of the low insurance rates offered by the Society.

If you have never considered applying for Society Honours, I would sincerely ask you to consider taking the plunge. All we ask is for you to submit an application in one of the numerous categories listed on the application form and ascertain your ability. Don't be too disappointed if at the first application you are not successful, few are!

Should you have any queries, suggestions or criticism, please let me have them and I can assure you that they will receive my personal attention.

Looking forward to meeting you all at Congress in October.

Sincerely,

E.R. JOHANNESSON, FPS(SA)
President.

* * * * *

..... A NEW SERVICE

How often does one see a technique, both new and fascinating, at a club meeting or Salon showing and wonder how this was achieved. How often does one struggle to master some particular aspect of photography, be it producing a Salon print, making a slide series, derivating with the bleach or bas relief technique, cine lap dissolves, commentaries, etc, etc, - the list seems almost endless.

A written lecture, "On Title Slides", was produced some time ago by Margaret Bevis of the Durban Camera Club, in which bright ideas, regarding the production of titles for slide series, abound. The emphasis is placed on simplicity and ease of production. The then Chairman of the P.S.S.A. Executive, Peter du Toit was asked if this lecture would be of value to P.S.S.A. The answer being "Yes", a suitable cover was knocked up, the lecture was put into book form, and P.S.S.A. members were offered the finished object at a price of 50c. An advert. was placed in P.S.S.A. News and Views and the first orders started coming in. In this way the new service, the P.S.S.A. Leaflet Service, was born.

The idea will be to approach as many of the members as possible and request them to produce suitable material, on subjects on which they are well qualified to lecture, and these lectures will be reproduced and sold.

What is envisaged at this stage is that the subject would be, naturally, on some aspects of photographic skill or technique, directed at either Beginners, Semi-Skilled or Advanced photographers. The lectures would run to approximately 20 pages (or more) and would be accompanied by sketches and diagrams, or photographs where required.

We certainly have enough members in our Society who produce outstanding work of a photographic nature and are therefore ideally suited to pass their knowledge on in booklet form. We should be able to produce at least a score of booklets on interesting subjects but - the production of this service must start with

YOU. So, to end on a note of appeal, would those of you who have anything of interest, photographically, to contribute, please drop a line to "The PSSA Leaflet Service, P.O. Box 2007, Johannesburg, 2000. You could be handing on knowledge, as well as pleasure and interest, to your fellow members, as well as helping P.S.S.A.

***** LOWVELD SALON SCENE

Salon '74, the third Lowveld Salon, is well underway, with the entry forms having been sent out and everyone waiting impatiently to see whether any records are going to be broken. The closing date for entries is the 29th June, 1974 (which makes it very late now).

Application has been made to P.S.S.A. for official recognition as a National Salon, which will be a replacement for the Durban Salon (which has gone International). P.S.S.A. will have an official observer down there who will report back on the organisation, etc.

The Salon dates back to 1972, when the Nelspruit Film Club was approached by the "Organisational Committee for a Week of Cultural Activities" who requested them to organise a Salon for the occasion. NFC were quick to accept, the Salon was a resounding success, and a committee was formed to put the Salon on an annual basis. (This was not the first attempt at a Salon in the area, as Barberton Camera Club had held a Salon in 1966, hoping to make it an annual event, but after the first showing the idea died a natural death).

The NFC had been organising the annual photographic section of the Lowveld Show since 1970 and, to avoid duplication of effort, an approach was made to the Show Society to stage the Lowveld Salon during the Show and in this way increase the overall image of the Photographic Section. The Show Society readily agreed to this suggestion and the 2nd. Lowveld Salon was held during the Lowveld Show. Entries were on an invitational basis to the Lowveld, South-

Western, Southern and Northern Transvaal regions. The 2nd Salon saw a total of 424 slides received from 37 authors from 11 different centres. 25 Authors gained 87 acceptances in the Colour Slide section, whilst 10 successful authors earned 39 acceptances in the Monochrome Section where a total of 131 prints were received from 13 authors from 4 different centres. A very good record for the second time out.

Publicity was received from the Lowveld Leader and this ensured the success of the Salon. A nightly screening of Colour Slides in the NFC Auditorium, and a public viewing from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. daily, was arranged.

This year the Auditorium and the Photographic Section Stall have been combined, achieving a large Auditorium, with increased seating capacity and creating a far more suitable atmosphere. Entries are now being accepted from the whole of the Republic and South West Africa, and it seems certain that all records will go by the board. Public showings will be from the 30th July to 3rd August, 1974.

***** TRANSPARENCY Les Luckhoff. CORNER

Transparency matters appear to be in the doldrums as we haven't had many slides for appraisal this month; however, the break has been most welcome. When are the Clubs going to try their hands at a slide series or two-or perhaps this has already been attempted and the results are on the way?

This month I was invited to visit the Shutterbugs Club in Vanderbijlpark; this means a long journey back to Benoni after midnight, not so hot when one has a business appointment at 7.00 a.m. the next morning. Let's face it, the effort was well worth while as an evening spent with this up and coming Club, which is under the Chairmanship of Rudy Erasmus, is always an experience. The members all have their allotted tasks and it's a pleasure to see how everything runs with

the minimum of fuss and bother. The evening presented all kinds of surprises, plus an excellent slide series by the Chairman himself. As an innovation why don't Camera Clubs take a leaf out of the M.O.T.H.S. book and plan raids on other Camera Clubs and just drop in unexpectedly on Club nights. There doesn't have to be any competition planned, just an informal visit, even if the club does happen to be 50 miles away (sorry 80 kms); remember how pleased you feel when you get unexpected visitors at your club.

The Kruger National Park received a visit from John Marquis and myself over the long weekend; but only after I had attended a dinner at a meeting of the Cercle Epicurean Mondial, a gourmet Society of which I am a member (now you know why the waist line is expanding; actually I'm watching it very carefully and I'm pleased to say it is now in a position which makes it easier to watch). Getting an early start, we arrived at Satara in the mid-morning. We managed to get accommodation in one of the new huts at Satara, and these are pure luxury, the one we had, No. 12 was situated right on the edge of the camp, (on the fence) and the outlook into the bush was tremendous.

People often ask how I can enjoy going to the Kruger after visiting the more remote and less busy parts of Africa. It's strange, but I always enjoy every minute of a trip to the Kruger, even after 44 years since my first trip. The bird life there is second to none, and, although the thrill of seeing a lion has faded, the thrill of seeing a Saddle Billed Stork nesting in a tree top whilst a couple of 70cm chicks do their best to get out of the nest, with Ma trying just as strenuously to keep the kids from committing suicide. This trip was interesting if only for the fact that we saw an Angolan Bul-bul or Red eyed Bulbul (Roberts ref. 544). I'd be interested to hear if any other photographers have seen this species in the Kruger Park, it's the first time I've seen them there.

Another rather noticable fact was that South Africans seem to at last have be-

come proud of their heritage as there was very little litter lying around the Park this trip. Perhaps the increased tariff also has something to do with this. The behaviour of the tourists has improved immensely as well, and we saw no unpleasant incidents, which was a change as I've seen far too many since 1930. (The word "tourist" doesn't imply overseas visitors but includes locals as well).

The Park is in tip top condition, with probably a little too much vegetation for the "purist" nature photographer, which could also have accounted for the scarcity of game, although the culling programme may also have a bearing on this fact. It was nice to see the Kruger has at last started on the road to recovery after the damage caused by the combined drought and overpopulation problems.

After a lot of effort expended in getting tacit approval from the Botswana Vice President, and the loan of three Hercules aircraft from the Minister of Defence of the Republic, all in the interests of flying about 19 White Rhino into the Okavango Swamps, I was tremendously disappointed to receive the news that the Botswana Parliament had just refused permission for the SAA aircraft to land in the Botswana Republic. People are peculiar. I guess the Botswana Parliament are in a difficult position owing to the way facts seem to be distorted these days, and headlines such as "South African troops and Rhino's invade Botswana" are things we can all do without.

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EXECUTIVE SUITE

This month I wish to expose the apathy that exists in the P.S.S.A. It is all very well to ask, "What are the Directors and Executive doing for the Society? However, if YOU don't play YOUR part, YOU can't very well expect very much from others, can YOU? As has been mentioned elsewhere, "The country or electorate only get the Government they deserve", and this applies equally to P.S.S.A.

Did you know that:

- a) After the last AGM PSSA had only 12 Directors nominated for the 14 positions.
- b) One of these Directors is so interested in the Society, and his Directorship, that his Executive Minutes are returned "address unknown" (How's that for deadwood?)

Naturally, as there were only 12 nominations, the elections were automatic, and two others gained election by default, i.e. the Executive had to APPOINT two others.

When you individual members from the country districts go visiting other clubs, you could try to find out who would be a "working" candidate and find out if they would be prepared to stand. Give US the Government WE deserve and WE'LL do the job.

We will send out nomination forms early this year and on receipt of the forms how about getting together with other photographers, committees and clubs and finding a "live wire" for nomination as a "worker" for P.S.S.A.?

Please help to make the Congress '74 a great success; P.E. have arranged a real groovy scene this year and if you are going to tell me transport is a problem, well, you know how we saved water two years ago, "We bathed with a friend", so you could "Travel with a friend". It should be quite interesting, and certainly a lot cheaper. How about a composite Vanderbijl, Welkom, Worcester, Windhoek, Pretoria and all the other "keen" clubs getting together for the trip. (I don't for one minute suggest Windhoek should come up here to pick up the Pretoria boys and then make a quick sweep down to Worcester, but they would certainly see the country). But I'll guarantee that once you've been to one Congress, you'll become addicted, and won't miss one thereafter.

The notice regarding the R1.00 levy should have arrived by now, and I must thank those clubs who have responded so wonderfully. The remarks received are most encouraging and prove the point that P.S.S.A. is certainly worthwhile,

and can grow every bit as big as we want it to grow.

The bad news this month is that Gert Marais of the Executive Committee has been transferred to Windhoek. Our loss is Windhoek's gain as Gert was one of our hardworking members. To offset this loss we have co-opted Deon van der Westhuizen of Pretoria, and we are confident our choice has been a good one. Congratulations to Deon on his appointment, and may your stay be long and fruitful.

* * * * *



Lex Liston APS(SA) hands Les Luckhoff, Chairman of Colour Slide Division, P.S.S.A., his Illuminated Certificate of Honorary Life Membership of the Springs Colour Slide Club, at their May meeting. Lex had earlier received his Honorary Life Membership, becoming the third member to receive the honour. (You can see why Les is watching his waistline).

SECRETARY

P.O. Box 2007,
Johannesburg.

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